Prices of essential foodgrains

32. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of the prices of essential pulses and foodgrains in the open market and under the public distribution system in the last one year;

(b) whether Government is considering any measures to improve the quality of PDS in the country;

(c) whether more items would be allowed to sell through the PDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Government continuously monitors prices of essential foodgrains (including pulses) namely, rice, wheat, atta (wheat), gram dal, arhar dal, moong dal, urad dal and masur dal. Price variation of retail prices of these commodities over the last year at Delhi is given in the Statement (*See* below). Rice and wheat is distributed through PDS. Central Issue Price (CIP) of rice and wheat has not been changed since July, 2002.

(b) Following measures have been taken to strengthen TPDS.

(i) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the functioning of TPDS to bring more transparency and accountability.

(ii) Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 notified to maintain supplies and distribution of essential commodities.

(iii) A nine-point action plan launched based on the findings of Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) and ORG-MARG evaluation report.

(iv) To keep a continuous watch on the scheme concurrent evaluation has been taken up in 26 States and UTs. A NCAER report received in respect of 12 States reveal improvement in functioning of TPDS in some States.

(v) Revised Citizen's Charter has been issued to make operation of TPDS transparent.

(vi) Instructions have been issued to introduce monthly certification by Village Panchayats/Vigilance Committees/Urban Local Bodies/Self Help Groups for delivery of foodgrains to the ration card holders.

(vii) Organising training programmes for PDS functionaries and members of vigilance committees.

(viii) Proposal to computerize TPDS operations at National/State/Block levels during the 11th Plan period.

(ix) Introduction of Global Positioning System (GPS) by Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Delhi Governments for tracking the movement of vehicles carrying TPDS commodities.

(x) Publicity-cum-awareness programme.

(c) and (d) Government launched a scheme in 2008 to distribute edible oils to various States/UTs through PSUs at a subsidy of Rs.15 per kg. for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 kg. per card per month.

Statement

Retail Prices of selected foodgrains at Delhi over the last year

(Rs. per kg.)

Commodity	Current date 10/2/2009	1 year back 8/2/2008	% variation 10.2.2009/8.2.2008
Rice	22.00	17.00	29.41
Wheat	13.00	13.00	0.00
Atta (Wheat)	15.00	14.00	7.14
Gram Dal	35.00	35.00	0.00
Tur Dal	50.00	42.00	19.05
Urad Dal	46.00	37.00	24.32
Moong Dal	46.00	36.00	27.78
Masoor Dal	62.00	40.00	55.00

SOURCE: State Civil Supplies Department

Reduction in foodgrains quota for States

33. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota of foodgrains to many States has been reduced;

(b) if so, the details of quota allocated for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the country has sufficient foodgrains stock in the FCI godowns, and

(d) if so, the details of foodgrains stock for the last three years, year-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKH1LESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted numbers of BPL and AAY families for all the States and UTs on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission, projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India, as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration card issued by each State/UT, whichever is less. Full quantity of foodgrains are allocated to BPL and AAY category as per the above norms and there is no reduction in the allocation.

However, allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Keeping in view the declining stock